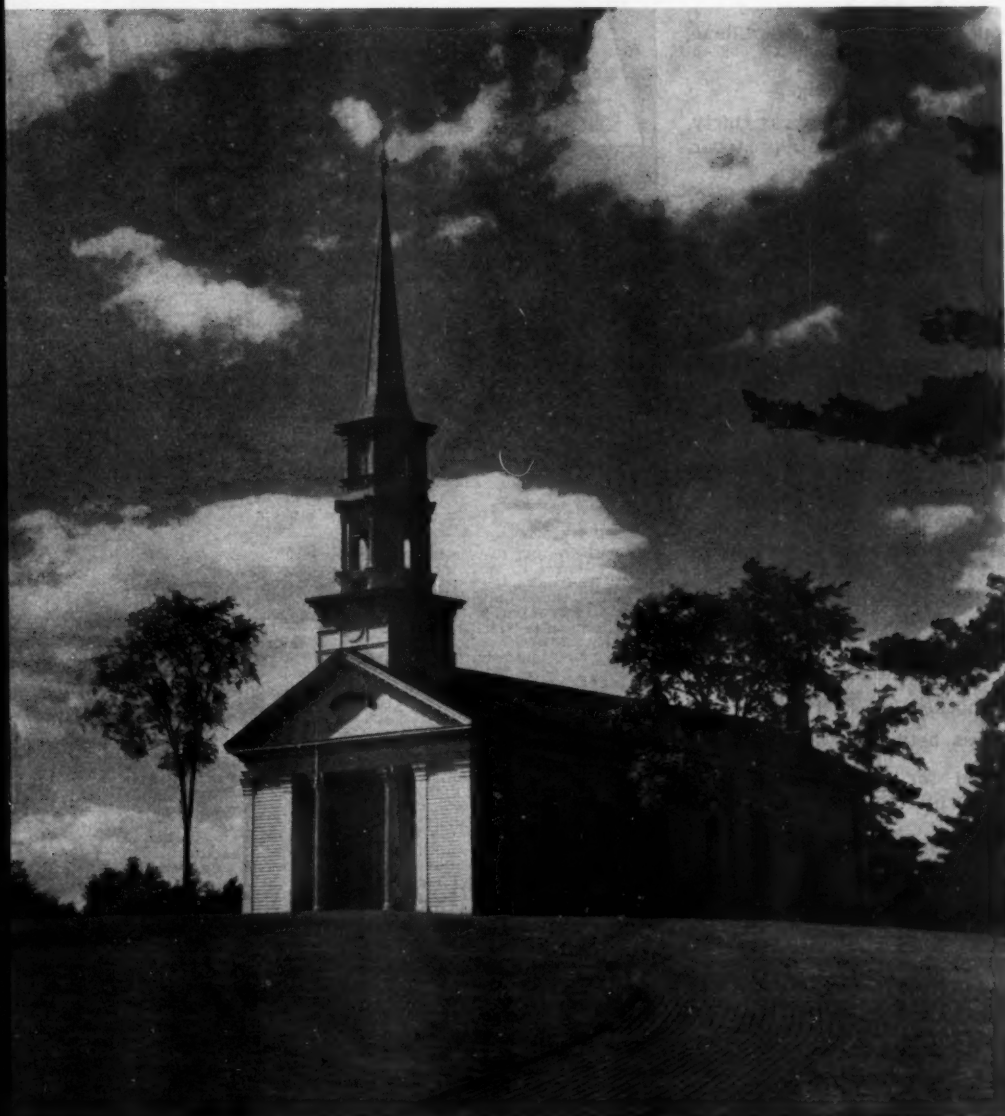


Church of God

# *Evangel*

March 25, 1957



*Life's  
Greatest  
Decision  
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*The  
Ministry  
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Music  
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*What Must I Do to Be Saved?*

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# "One Solitary Life"

## OUR BLESSED SAVIOUR

Here is a Man who was born in an obscure village, the Child of a peasant woman.

He grew up in another obscure village.

He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty, and then for three years He was an itinerate preacher.

He never wrote a book.

He never held an office.

He never owned a home.

He never had a family.

He never went to college.

He never put His foot inside a big city.

He never traveled two hundred miles from the place where He was born.

He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but Himself.

He had nothing to do with this world except the naked power of His divine manhood.

While still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against Him.

His friends ran away.

One of them denied Him.

He was turned over to His enemies.

He went through the mockery of a trial.

He was nailed to a cross between two thieves.

His executioners gambled for the only piece of property He had on earth while He was dying—and that was His coat.

When He was dead, He was taken down and laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Nineteen wide centuries have come and gone, and today He is the centerpiece of the human race and the leader of the column of progress.

I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that ever were built, and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as has that one solitary life.

—James A. Francis, D. D.

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# CHURCH OF GOD Evangel

America's Oldest Pentecostal Publication

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## DECLARATION OF FAITH

### WE BELIEVE

1. In the verbal inspiration of the Bible. 2. In one God eternally existing in three persons; namely, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. 3. That Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of the Father, conceived of the Holy Ghost, and born of the Virgin Mary. That Jesus was crucified, buried, and raised from the dead; that He ascended to heaven and is today at the right hand of the Father as the Intercessor. 4. That all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, and that repentance is commanded of God for all and necessary for forgiveness of sins. 5. That justification, regeneration, and the new birth are wrought by faith in the blood of Jesus Christ. 6. In sanctification subsequent to the new birth, through faith in the blood of Christ; through the Word, and by the Holy Ghost. 7. Holiness to be God's standard of living for His people. 8. In the baptism of the Holy Ghost subsequent to a clean heart. 9. In speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance, and that it is the initial evidence of the baptism of the Holy Ghost. 10. In water baptism by immersion, and all who repent should be baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. 11. Divine healing is provided for all in the atonement. 12. In the Lord's Supper and washing of the saints' feet. 13. In the premillennial second coming of Jesus. First, to resurrect the righteous dead and to catch away the living saints to Him in the air. Second to reign on the earth a thousand years. 14. In the bodily resurrection; eternal life for the righteous and eternal punishment for the wicked.

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# Life's Greatest Decision

By Robert Humbertson

*"Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? They all say unto him, Let him be crucified," Matthew 27:22.*

**P**ONTIUS PILATE, Roman governor of Judea, was called upon to make a decision about the earthly life of Jesus Christ. We must make another type of decision about Christ—to accept Him or reject Him as personal Saviour, and this is life's greatest decision.

The consequences of our decision about Jesus are as far-reaching as eternity. Whether we go into eternal happiness or eternal punishment after this life is over depends on whether we accept or reject Christ Jesus as our Saviour.

If you accept Jesus, you are accepting the greatest Friend you will ever have. The New Testament will acquaint you with Christ. It records what He said, what He did, and who He was. "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: . . . who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him" (1 Peter 3:18, 22).

What did Jesus have to say about Himself?

"I am the light of the world" (John 8:12).

"I am the good shepherd" (John 10:11).

"I am the resurrection" (John 11:25).

"I am the bread of life" (John 6:35).

"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6).

In view of what the New Testament tells you about Christ, in view of what you know about Him, and in view of what He says about Himself, ask yourself the serious and solemn question: "What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ?" I pray that

you will swing the door of your heart open wide and let Jesus come into your life. Let Him come into your heart with all of His holiness, beauty, and power.

If you reject Jesus, you will continue to grope about in the darkness of sin; you will never experience the tender care of the Good Shepherd; you will never taste the Bread of Life; you will never find the way to God, never know the "truth" or the "life," and finally, you will miss heaven.

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life; and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him" (John 3:36).

"He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?" (Hebrews 10:28, 29).

**IF YOU ACCEPT CHRIST** as your personal Saviour, your life will be full of light; you will come into intimate fellowship with the Good Shepherd; you will never hunger because you will eat the Bread of Life; you will learn the way to God, know the "truth," find that life in Christ is blessed, and live eternally with Him in glory.

Accepting Christ will make you a new person. One of the greatest verses of the Bible is 2 Corinthians 5:17: "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a

(Continued on page 8)

### *The Origin of Music*

**W**HERE did music come from? When was the first music made?" These questions were asked by an inquisitive boy in Sunday School one Sunday morning. He received several answers from different members of the class. One replied, without much thought, "I guess music started when pianos were made." Another said, "Violins were made before pianos." After several observations it was finally admitted that people must have sung before instruments were made. The wide-awake teacher had joined the conversation by this time and asked the leading question, "Was there any music before people made music?" This brought about many observations. Semi-indifference was changed to red-hot interest as the discussion brought out that all nature sings. The bird sings, the wind in the trees, the water running over the rocks, the surf booming upon the seashore, even the sea shells make music if you only listen.

All this brings out the fact as Phill Kerr puts it, "Music was born in the heart of God countless ages before He ever made man." The Bible substantiates this statement in Job 38, "The morning stars sang together, and the sons of God shouted for joy." There are those who would say, how can stars sing? Scientists declare, so says Dr. Harry Rimmer in his book, "The Antiquity of Music," that light and sound are composed of the same substance. The only reason that we cannot hear light is because our ears are not attuned to the right frequency. Do we have to stretch our imaginations to say that the stars sang praises?

In reading the description of Lucifer, God's chosen cherub, we find that the beautiful one was a marvelous musical instrument. "The workmanship of thy tabrets and thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day thou wast created." Thus we find that Lucifer, before his fall, was the first created being to make music! He must have been God's song leader of the universe and could have led the stars in singing praises unto God.

# *The Ministry*

*By A. T. Humphries*

It must have been while he was in this position that he learned of the power of music for he is certainly using it today to drag people into the depths of despair. Music is like many other things; it can be used for good or it can be used for evil. It was while King Herod was under the influence of Satan's music and sensual dancing that he ordered the head of John the Baptist to be cut off. On the other hand, King Saul's anger was quieted under the inspired music of David.

### *The Place of Music*

**YES, MUSIC** is one of the most powerful weapons used in the warfare between good and evil. Satan is using music to degrade man and to drag him into the depths of despair. We as soldiers of the Cross need to make the greatest use possible of this powerful weapon to lift man up into fellowship and likeness unto God. We have only to look into the Scriptures to find that God intended for music to be used as a weapon of warfare against Satan. We find in 2 Chronicles 20:21, 22 these words: "And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the Lord, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the Lord; for his mercy endureth for ever. And when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten."

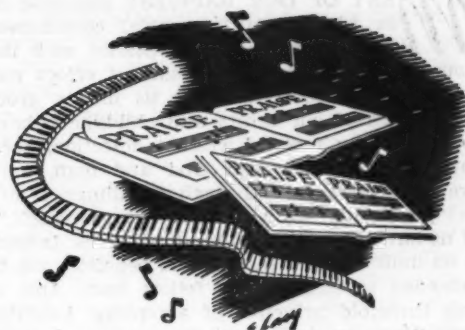
Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, called his people together for a council of war and they decided

upon one of the strangest strategies ever heard of. It was equal to the strangeness of the strategy of Joshua at Jericho or by Gideon when he ordered his army to be so greatly reduced. Much was at stake. Judah was faced with what would seem to be a death struggle with the hosts of Ammon and Moab and their allies. The decision as to what strategy to use was indeed an important one, and no doubt much discussion took place in the council before the decision was finally made. The decision was to choose a choir to go out singing a song of praise to lead the army. They were using, in a sense, psychological warfare, under the direction of God. They were to go forth to battle confident of victory. The musicians always led the victory parade when the troops returned from battle. Now they were to lead a confident army into battle. Jehoshaphat's move was calculated to bolster the morale of his own troops as well as to break the morale of the enemy. They were saying to the enemy, "You are beaten before you start." His own people were filled with fear and misgivings and needed their faith strengthened. They were to remember that the Lord was with them, and no enemy could stand before them.

The command to sing praises unto God is given over and over again in the Old Testament. It was a positive and pleasant way for God's people to express their spirit of faith and trust. "When Israel sang she conquered." When God commanded people to sing it was a signal that they had conquered because He had already willed it so. This should encourage us today, be-



# of Music



cause we are told that we are more than conquerors through Jesus Christ our Lord. When we sing His praises we are notifying Satan that he is beaten before he starts. The Lord's army moves forward today with songs of faith in the vanguard.

It was a part of the divine plan of God to announce the Saviour's birth with song. The hosts of heaven broke forth in the Judean sky with their "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men" (Luke 2:14). "And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen" (Luke 2:20). Christ came into a world that had lost its song, but He started a song that will last throughout all eternity.

As music prepared the way of the Lord then, so it does today. The Reformation swept across Europe on wings of song. The priests of the Catholic church feared the songs of Luther more than they did his sermons. It was no accident that John Wesley's brother, Charles, was a song writer. It was God's plan. In spreading the doctrine of Methodism many people say that Charles' songs were more effective than John's sermons.

Yes, music properly used is an effective weapon in the hands of the church. It was the only weapon used by Jehoshaphat and before it the Lord's enemies were confounded, scattered and beaten by people who had united their hearts and voices in achieving a goal. "Music can confound the enemy before he even starts. It can be used as an effective weapon to soften up the enemy. It is to be used

to strengthen the minds and hearts of God's people and prepare them for Christian warfare." (*Music in the Bible*)

**THE SINGING church** is the conquering church. "The choir and music forces of the church are to aid in the battle against sin. Music is not to be merely an auxiliary which can be used in the various services or omitted from them depending solely on personal preferences or whims of the moment. It is to lend support and prepare the way for the teaching of the Word. It is to be an effective force in breaking down the resistance of the hardest heart. It can attune the mind and hearts of the people with such effectiveness as to prepare the way for ultimate victory when the message of God is delivered by His messenger." (*Music in the Bible*)

"A congregation who sings best listens best," is a well-known fact. As a congregation gathers, whether it be for Sunday morning worship, evangelistic service, prayer meeting, Y.P.E., or whatever type service it might be, the thoughts of the people are varied. They come from different walks of life, each individual with his own particular problem. They come to church to find the answer to that problem. The battle between good and evil or God and Satan is waging within them. When they come to church, that battle still continues. Satan always marshals his strongest forces in church; however, he is on God's territory and must proceed with utmost caution. If he can keep the mind of each individual on himself, then he knows God does not

have a chance. God knows this, too. He knew it back in the days of Jehoshaphat. He used music then to bolster the morale of His own troops, and to throw the enemy into confusion.

The same forces are at work today and the same strategy still works. When the organ begins to play, the process of unification begins and with each note the individual forgets about his own particular problem and soon is joining the throng in singing praises unto God. When this happens the enemy is beaten before he starts. Hearts are melted. Individual problems fade away and are replaced with love and gratitude. The congregation becomes a unified body of worshippers. The enemy has been put to rout. The way has been prepared for the knockout blow, the Word of God.

Yes, it is a vital part of God's plan for music to lead in the attack against Satan. The armed forces of our country employ similar tactics when an invasion is to be made. The commandos, paratroopers, or Marines are sent ahead to prepare the way for the main force which is to follow. Many lives are saved by using this softening-up process. These men are highly trained for their job. They are selected from volunteers who are dedicated to the cause and who are best fitted for the job. If music is to accomplish what God intends, then it must be performed by persons who are dedicated to the cause of Christ, who are willing, and who are trained to do the job they are selected to do (1 Corinthians 14:7, 8).

**M**ANY OF OUR HAPPIEST moments come to us through thoughtful considerations of others. Our social acceptance with its many hours of fellowship, is a result of effort put forth by someone else to welcome us into a group; the forgiveness of our errors and childlike behavior, allows us to go forward without dejection, because in loving-kindness through God and man, our faults are overlooked; and through a willingness of others to "prefer his brother rather than himself," many of us have encountered untold blessings. Indeed, there is no limit to the pleasures and benefits man has had extended to him by his fellow man. And through this threefold principle of accepting, forgiving, and promoting, an individual or a group becomes the recipient of a grandeur which makes life more pleasant.

Sir Walter Scott once said, "The race of mankind would perish, did they cease to aid each other. From the time that the mother binds the child's head, till the moment that some kind assistant wipes the death damp from the brow of the dying, we cannot exist without the mutual help of others. All, therefore, that need aid have a right to ask it from their fellow mortals; no one who holds the power of granting can refuse it without guilt."

If then mankind, in general, is so intimately bound to each other in the necessity and willingness of aiding others, how much more is the Christian called upon to excel in example of binding up the head of the newborn "babe in Christ," and nurture him till death's damp sweat is wiped from his brow in brotherly kindness. Thus Christian progress is bound to brotherly love and can be richly increased by:

- I. Accepting our brothers
- II. Forgiving our brothers
- III. Promoting our brothers.

**A PERSISTENT INDIVIDUAL** pushing his way into a crowd one day, interrupted Jesus as He spoke to a large group, to inform Him that His brothers and mother were standing outside and desired to see Him. The Master felt this to be an unreasonable interruption, but instead of giving a direct rebuke, made from it an opportunity to convey a noble lesson. "Who is my mother?" He said to the man, "and who are my brothers?" Then pointing to His disciples He added, "See, here are my mother and my brothers. To obey my Father, who is in heaven—that is to be my brother and my sister and my mother" (Matthew 12:48-50).

From the answer Jesus gave the man, it is conceivable to believe that brotherhood is not contingent only on flesh and blood relationship; but that there develops a kinship between individuals who are together "doers" of the will of God, which has a parallel only in flesh and blood relationship.

The drunkard, slanderer, harlot, and publican, whom the hypocritical Pharisee could not accept, become our brothers and sisters, when they are born into God's kingdom, desiring to do His will.



The great temptation is to shun them for a while to see if a drifting back to the saloon, into gossiping, or to the prostitute's hall will soon develop, and if it does, we have not wasted our time and energy by binding up the little heads in their first few hours of birth.

These are the most important hours to the "newly born." When a degree of maturity is reached he can find some nourishment by himself, but now, in his infancy, he depends largely on those about him, whom Christ calls his brothers.

Acceptance thus becomes an important step in the progress of the Christian, for his receiving it not only increases the penitent child's chance for survival, but fulfills a part of the plan of brotherhood set forth by Christ.

A second important quality necessary to Christian progress by brotherly love is forgiveness—forgiveness of wrongs, omissions, and immaturity; for almost as certain as we accept an individual, there will come the inevitable necessity of forgiving his mistakes even as God for Christ's sake forgives us our blunders.

"And how often," inquired bold Peter, "shall my brother act wrongly towards me and I forgive him? Seven times?"

"I do not say seven times," answered Jesus, "but seventy times seven."

Some brothers and sisters try our patience, for there seems to be a continual need of offering forgiveness for a slipping away into previous sins or a new area of adventure, which can bring disgrace and

# Christian Progress Through Brotherly Love

By James E. Humbertson

shame to the entire congregation. We pray and weep before God for the weak, but tomorrow he seems no better; rather he drifts farther away from God, until we question within ourselves whether it is worth while going after such a one. The Apostle Paul thought the effort is justified. "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." Restore! restore! was the cry of the Apostle, even if they have drifted back to the bondage of the law, for bondage to any force needs freedom. Consequently, the Christian, by the power of the Spirit working through him has, as Sir Walter Scott says, "the power of granting aid, and cannot refuse it without guilt." Forgive, not just once or even seven times, but seventy times seven, was the advice of the great Teacher.

Forgiveness in its very essence, is an expression of love in seed form, which being planted in others reproduces many new seeds, and brings delightful fruit to the planter.

Through accepting the newly born babe of Christ, we increase his chance for survival and bring progress to our own experience by fulfilling a part of the plan of brotherhood set forth by Christ; and by forgiving his shortcomings in the climb toward perfection, we provide nourishment by implanting seeds within him which develop into many more seeds by his forgiveness of others. The result is fruit for you through your forgiveness in brotherhood.

CHRISTIAN PROGRESS through brotherly love, however, requires one more consideration on our part: that of promotion and preference. The Old Testament brings to attention the contrast between two individuals in a situation of promoting younger persons. First, we notice that of King Saul and David. Saul had been good to David till he was aware that David was increasing in popularity and preference by God, but then Saul began hounding the trail of David day and night with extreme anger because he could not prefer David before himself. The second is the case of Eli and Samuel, in which Eli, a judge, gives up his office to young Samuel, who had pronounced doom on the old man. Eli had taught Samuel all he knew about the office, but now he received word of his termination by the voice of his pupil. And yet, the old man, in direct opposition to the "angered fit" of Saul, assisted Samuel to attain his goal, by instructing him how he was to accept the revelation from God and appropriate it, which would ultimately strip him of his office.

Obviously, the example of Eli should be the Christian principle in relation to his brother. Prefer, help, and promote the child of God, when the voice of the Almighty is speaking of a work he must do.

The temptation is to be somewhat like Saul, and consider ourselves better fitted for the job than the one whose head we bound with bands at his spiritual birth, and whose forgiveness became so frequent, our patience was almost exhausted.

Yet Jesus told His own twelve disciples, who had been disputing one with another as to which was the greater, "If any man would be first, he shall be last of all, and servant of all." Be last to be first, serve to be served, promote and prefer if you desire to be exalted by God.

PROMOTION BECOMES an intricate part of the expression of brotherhood, and reaches full fruition only when it is bathed in the self-giving love so characteristic of Jesus.

To progress in Christianity is to be given to brotherly love; and to possess brotherly love is to assure one's self of Christian progress. Each is intimately related to the other, and in no degree can one be increased or reduced without making a notable change on the other.

Our acceptance of brothers gives warmth to the "newly born," and strengthens his chance for survival in a world of temptations; the forgiveness we offer develops his character by creating in him a desire to forgive others; and by preference and promotion we put him in a position of humility and gratitude through which he is most useful and effective for God. Also, while we are helping our brother to attain a position of usefulness, we achieve an instrumental place for ourselves.

Thus, the road to Christian progress is to accept, forgive, and promote our kinsman in Christ, through brotherly love.



## LIFE'S GREATEST DECISION

(Continued from page 3)

new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

From every walk of life and from every level of society come confessions that the heart is restless and the soul is uneasy until the peace of God that passes all understanding comes into human experience. You will find this peace when you accept the Lord Jesus.

When you accept Jesus Christ, you come into a beautiful and significant relationship with God. You become a "son of God."

"He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name" (John 1:11, 12).

"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is" (1 John 3:1, 2).

Accept Jesus as the Saviour and Lord of your life, and you will be able to say with the great English preacher, Charles H. Spurgeon:

"What the hand is to the lute,  
What the breath is to the flute,  
What is fragrance to the smell,  
What the spring is to the well,  
What the flower is to the bee,  
That is Jesus Christ to me.  
What's the mother to the child,  
What the guide in pathless wild,  
What is oil to troubled wave,  
What is ransom to the slave,  
What is water to the sea,  
That is Jesus Christ to me."

**SINNER FRIEND**, what are you going to do about Jesus? Will you continue to be indifferent toward Him? Will you reject Him, or will you accept Him?

The decision is yours to make, and remember, it is the greatest decision of your life.

I heard of a man who said he was going to decide the question of accepting or rejecting Christ in a reasonable way, and that he would write down on one piece of paper all the reasons he ought to accept Christ, and on another all the reasons he ought to reject Christ, and then would weigh the matter in a rational way and decide as a reasonable man should. And so he began. He wrote first the reasons he ought to accept Christ, and his pen just flew down the paper until it was full of reasons; then he began with the reasons he ought to reject Christ. He put down the figure one, and then his pen stopped. He could not think of a single reason he ought to reject Christ, and, reader, there are no such reasons; so will you accept Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour today?

????????????????

## WHAT MUST

*Acts 16:30, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"*

**T**HE PHILIPPIAN JAILOR asked the most important question of his life when he asked Paul and Silas how to be saved. When one realizes his need of something, only then will he begin to search for it. This is true in the natural things of life and in the things of God. The blind man near Jericho cried out from a heart that had a great need, until Jesus took notice. The woman with the issue of blood pressed her way through to touch the hem of Christ's garment because of a very deep desire for healing. The Syrophenician woman stayed before Jesus and persisted in her prayer for her daughter because of her great need. Jesus answered her request and commended her for her faith.

The Scriptures are full of man's efforts to find God by his own powers and wisdom, but these efforts only teach us how impossible it is to save ourselves. Adam and Eve tried to cover their naked bodies with fig leaves, but only God could cover them adequately. All of the human efforts found in the Old Testament ended in failure. The efforts of man in all lands and ages to find peace of soul have failed.

In God's Word His love is expressed toward man in that He shows us our lost condition and then gives us a Saviour. The Bible tells us of our guilt before God. In Romans 3:23 we find, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." Also notice Isaiah 53:6, "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all." 1 John 1:8, "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." The natural man through pride resists the thought of his being sinful by nature. However, our own failures and our Bible must convince us that we need a Saviour. That we are born in sin is shown by the Psalmist in Psalm 51:5, "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me."

Since we learn from the Bible that we are lost, surely there we can find the way out to safety.

First, God requires that we acknowledge our sins. We find in 1 John 1:9 the following: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." We find relief in confessing to anyone whom we have offended, and when he forgives us, we have



# ST I DO TO BE SAVED?

By Thomas K. Shoemaker

peace with him and can look him right in the eye and be happy in his presence. The same thing applies to our relationship with God. When we confess to God our sins, He is glad for Jesus' sake to forgive us.

Second, we must confess Jesus as the Christ; that is, that He is the Son of God. 1 John 4:15 says, "Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God." Romans 10:9, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

One must do what is in his power to do. We must right our wrongs toward man as much as possible. Notice the example of Zaccheus. Luke 19:8, "... Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold."

Let us accept the Word and way of the Lord. If doubts arise, pray as did the man in Mark 9:24, "... Help thou mine unbelief."

Man must base his hope on the grace of God. Titus 3:4, 5 says, "But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us . . ."

When the question of circumcision was under discussion at the council at Jerusalem as told in Acts 15, Peter said in his speech, in verse 11, "But we believe that through the *grace* of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they." Romans 3:24, "Being justified freely by his *grace* through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus."

We must base our hope on the Word of God. The experience of another will help us, but we must remember that God deals with each one as it pleases Him. Our emotions of joy and peace will encourage us, but our feelings change from time to time. The Word of God, however, is steadfast and sure. Let us put our trust in God's promises. Romans 5:1, "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." In John 5:24 Jesus says, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, *hath* everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life." 1 John 3:14, "We know that we have passed from death

unto life, because we love the brethren . . . ." Paul tells us in 2 Timothy 1:12, "For I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that *he* is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."

NOW LET US STUDY some Bible examples of men finding Christ. The story of the Ethiopian eunuch is told in Acts 8. The man was eager for a more complete knowledge of God. He opened his heart to the message that Phillip delivered. As soon as he realized what was expected of him by the Lord, he obeyed and went on his way rejoicing.

In the account of the conversion of Cornelius and his household in Acts 10 notice the following facts. Cornelius prayed, and God took notice and began to do something for him. The angel told Cornelius how to learn more about the plan of salvation. The centurion obeyed at once, sent for Peter and asked him to tell them whatsoever the Lord had commanded him to say. While the Apostle Peter still spoke, the power of God came upon the gathering and wrought a mighty work in each heart, and filled them with the Holy Ghost.

When Paul and Silas were in Philippi, they went down on the riverside where prayer meetings were held. They found there a rich lady whose heart was ready for more light. Lydia received the message of Christ and invited the ministers to stay at her home.

Think of the circumstances and attitude of the persons mentioned above. The Ethiopian had been to the house of God to worship and was reading the Word on his way home. The Lord met and satisfied his heart. Cornelius was praying and fasting when God sent unto him the instructions that he needed to find perfect peace with God. Lydia was at the place of prayer and the Lord found her there through His servants. She received the Word and started to work for God immediately.

The jailer at Philippi did not have long to wait for the answer to his question as to the way of salvation, for the apostles said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."

Tell Jesus your need. Confess your sins. Claim Him as your Saviour. Begin a life of service for Him and you shall find rest for your soul.

Jesus said, "And him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37).

## God Blesses Mightily in Prison Service

The Hemphill Avenue Church of God has just closed a great revival with the Reverend Jimmy Swilley as evangelist. Twenty-five were converted and many others received definite experiences from the Lord. God blessed in a marvelous way in each service, and Brother Swilley's preaching was very outstanding. The singing of Brother and Sister Swilley, together with the pastor's wife, was very inspiring. One Sunday evening there were eight or ten saved. Eight were saved at a prison service conducted by the young people during the revival. The evangelist preached at children's church one Sunday morning and fourteen were saved. The attendance was especially good. The effects of this revival will be long-lasting, and the good that was accomplished will be revealed only in eternity.

Our church is on the upward move under the capable leadership of our pastor, the Reverend Earl P. Paulk, Jr. "The Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad."

—Ruth Holt, Reporter

## Six Converted in Alcoa Meeting

ALCOA, Tenn.—We have just closed a two-week revival with Brother David Beaty. Six were saved, 3 sanctified, 3 filled with the Holy Ghost, and 3 united with the Church. A week later, Brother Jackie Bridges was with us for a Sunday service. Three were saved—a lady who had not been in church in 16 years, her daughter and son. We thank God for His outpouring.

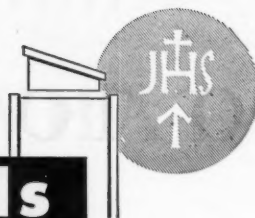
—T. L. Phillips, Pastor

## Revival Spirit Continues After Twenty-two Conversions

SAVANNAH, Ga.—A great revival was held at the Savannah (West-side) Church of God with Brother Jimmy Talley, 16-year-old evangelist from Columbus, Georgia. Twenty-two were saved, 9 sanctified, and 10 filled with the Holy Ghost. The revival spirit is still here.

—Jimmy Talley

# revivals



## Great Revival and Progress Noted in New Castle Church

NEW CASTLE, Ind.—We have just closed a four weeks' revival. Twelve were saved and 4 filled with the Holy Ghost; all were under thirty-five years of age. It was truly a youth revival. One woman that was saved on Sunday night was in a car accident on Monday. Her car skidded on ice and went over an embankment, coming to rest on its top. While she was on her hands and knees in the car, the Lord spoke to her and told her that if she had not accepted Him when He called her, she would never have had another opportunity. Except for shock, neither she nor her eight-year-old daughter were injured.

The pastor, Brother E. E. Coleman, preached for the revival until the Lord sent Sister Ida McCormack and Sister Bill Taylor along to assist us. Sister McCormack was a Nazarene preacher for 19 years, until a little over a year ago she saw the light and accepted Pentecost. Sister Taylor has a beautiful voice and sang and played her accordion and harp. The church was blessed by the beautiful singing of the girls' trio and other special singers. On Saturday night before the revival closed, we had communion and feet-washing. It was the first feet-washing service that Sister McCormack had ever seen, and she said that for several days her feet felt as if they had been bathed and soothed by some kind of ointment.

On January 20, we had a dedicatory service for our new church building. Our state overseer, Brother James A. Stephens, preached the dedicatory message and prayed the dedicatory prayer. God is blessing

the New Castle Church of God and we are looking forward to greater blessings. We are taking the Workers' Training Courses 1 and 2, and our people seem very enthusiastic over really working hard to make ours a AA Sunday School.

We must say something about the work our L.W.B. is doing. They make the payments on the local parsonage and furniture, and recently purchased a new automatic washer for the parsonage. On Friday evening they presented their president, Sister Dale Holmes, many gifts for her birthday and the pastor's wife a wrist watch. We are expecting great things for the church here, for the Lord is blessing us. With such a group of willing people, we cannot help but win.

—Mrs. E. E. Coleman, Reporter

## State Overseer Leads in Great Spiritual Meetings

MILES CITY, Mont.—The wonderful revival just conducted by the Reverend Arnold E. Erickson, our state overseer, has just closed. God certainly came down in our midst each evening and wonderfully blessed us. Shouts of victory went up as we saw sinners making their way to the altar and others being sanctified and filled with the Holy Ghost. The unseen hand of God reached down and healed those that were sick and suffering in body who came to Him. Our church certainly has been blessed by having such a Spirit-filled man to minister to us. This is our first revival since we started the work here three months ago.

We felt very honored to have Brother Erickson preach for us on our radio broadcast the past two Sundays.

Since the coming of the new year we have seen seventeen souls come to the altar seeking salvation. Several have been sanctified and four were filled with the Holy Ghost. Praise the Lord for His goodness.

All are still praising the Lord for the wonderful time they had at the Billings, Montana, Rally Saturday, January 19. We are looking forward to attending another one. Brother Robert Reesor gave a stirring message in the morning service concerning our Sunday Schools and Y.P.E. work. I am sure that we all left with a greater zeal to see our churches grow. In the afternoon Brother David Green brought a message and we just sat and feasted. Truly we have meat to eat about which the world knows nothing. The evening service was dedicated to prayer for the sick. The service opened with a spiritual deluge of God's anointing. A spirit of prayer and praise and song fell upon the congregation. Sister Jennie Evans was used of the Lord in bringing us a great inspirational message on faith. It was marvelous to notice the spirit of discernment present as certain diseases present were called out. This was indeed a great climax to the day's service, and we all went our separate ways with the jubilee of heaven in our souls.

We want to invite any of our ministers that may be passing through Miles City to stop over and preach for us. We are located at 611 North Seventh Street. Our regular service nights are Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday.

—Jennie Evans, Pastor

### God Fulfills His Promises

CHARLESTON, Miss.—I hardly know how to report the revival just closed. I seek God's divine guidance in every move I make for Him. I felt the Spirit leading for a few nights' services in the community near where I live. The school has been moved to town and the build-

ing was left for a community center. The people in the community were all Methodists and Church of Christ. I obeyed God and made plans for a revival to be held there. My pastor and my church cooperated with me wonderfully. We had wonderful attendance. Although we could not see a lot of outward success, to me it was a success because it was what God has promised me. When the revival closed many begged me to come back with tears in their eyes and many hearts were touched. Some of the churches closed their prayer meetings to be with us. I feel that the revival has done much to gain their confidence. Pray for me that I will be a consecrated worker for Christ.

—Mrs. K. C. Peters

### Shafter Has "Best Revival"

SHAFTER, Calif. — I wish to sound a note of praise for the Church of God at Shafter, California. We have just closed the best revival we have witnessed here at Shafter. Brother Leo Smith was the evangelist. Two were saved, 3 sanctified, 2 filled with the Holy Ghost and 4 added to the Church. Our church is stronger in every way. A song was sung in the Spirit and interpreted. Brother and Sister Smith wrote it down and began to sing it before the revival was over. Our people became concerned by the time the revival was over and began to complete the parsonage. It is now on its way to completion. We do praise God for His wonderful love.

—R. D. Walters, Pastor

### Thirteen Converted in Revival

SELMAN CITY, Texas—One of the greatest revivals in many years has just come to a close at the Church of God in Selman City, Texas. Brother T. J. O'Neal and his wife were the evangelists. The Lord certainly showered His blessings upon the congregation in every service. Some were slain under the Spirit, others were literally drunk on the Spirit. Thirteen were saved, 10 sanctified, 4 filled with the Holy Ghost, 9 baptized in water, and 6

added to the Church of God. For all this we give praise and honor unto Him who gave the increase.

—David J. O'Neal, Pastor

### Forty Converted in Brunswick

BRUNSWICK, Ga.—With God's great presence so real in every service, it was with much reluctance that we closed our recent revival. Sister Minnie Hillhouse was the evangelist. The church was greatly blessed by her Spirit-filled messages each night. Forty were saved, 20 filled with the Holy Ghost, and 9 united with the Church. We praise the Lord for sending Sister Hillhouse our way, and we look forward to having her back again.

—C. W. Clayton, Pastor

### Twenty Converted in Adamsville

ADAMSVILLE, Ala.—The Adamsville Church had a great revival. We thank God for the great blessings that we received. Over 20 souls were saved, approximately 20 were sanctified, and 14 filled with the Holy Ghost. Brother Roy Dagnan from Wallins Creek, Kentucky, was the evangelist. He is a great man of prayer and his preaching blessed our souls. He was a great blessing to the young people as well as the older ones. Brother Raymond Taylor is our pastor.

—Downey Hayes, Clerk

### Maryland Church Enjoys Outstanding Revival

GRASONVILLE, Md.—We have just closed a two-week revival with the Reverend Elwood A. Kern. The results were outstanding. There were 21 definite experiences, and we truly thank God for them. We have only a few members in our church, but God blessed with a great revival. We are anticipating great growth at the Church of God in Grasonville, Maryland. Brother Kern is truly a great minister and will do any church good.

—Rev. R. C. Davis, Pastor



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### Spontaneous Prayer Meeting Is Highlight of the Kansas Prayer Conference

The doors of the McCormick Street Church of God opened its doors on the night of January 17 for a great prayer conference. The pastor, W. A. Tarpley, along with the other two cooperating pastors in the city of Wichita, had things well-prepared. Even from the very first song, one could realize the prayer conference was marked for a great feast from the Lord.

Earl P. Paulk was the speaker for the conference. He delivered three sermons, starting Thursday night and continuing through Friday night. His messages, as always, were certainly a challenge and an uplift to everyone. Kansas will not forget his anointed preaching.

L. E. Painter, the state overseer, had done his part to make the conference the success it was. Brother Painter has made all the ministers in Kansas feel he is here to work with them for the good of the state and of the Church. I have noted with appreciation the attitude of Brother Painter in the state board meetings. He is always congenial, and the matters presented are accepted with sincerity.

One of the great highlights of the prayer conference was the prayer meeting for the ministers held on Friday morning. To borrow the words of F. L. McClung, "This was one prayer meeting that was not called to order or dismissed, and yet it lasted for almost three hours. I believe that Kansas will hear from this prayer meeting of the ministers."

Kansas is a small state, but as Brother Paulk has stated, "With

the leader and the ministers in the state of Kansas, and with the spirit that I feel, I believe you will do great things for God and His Church in Kansas. We are looking to hear some good reports from you. Just keep on singing as you did tonight, and keep on praying and working as you have started, and there will be a lot of good come from your working. I believe there will be some good reports from your state."

Another prayer conference is now history, but its influence is still with us.

—Amos A. Ledford, Reporter

### Promotional Plans Highlight Nebraska State Prayer Conference

The Church of God in Lincoln, Nebraska, was host church for the Nebraska Prayer Conference. Our official representative from General Headquarters was Brother Earl P. Paulk.

The welcome address was given by the local pastor, Brother James Welch, Jr., the Scripture reading and official opening by the state overseer. A most wonderful spirit of worship prevailed during the devotion and as the ministers prayed for the sick, the power of the Holy Ghost was felt by all. Testimonies were given confirming our faith in God to heal today. The evening message was saturated by the Holy Ghost as God anointed His messenger, Brother Paulk. The message

was climaxed with weeping and consecration.

Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. we were in session again for what proved to be one of the greatest days in Nebraska Prayer Conference history. The morning was devoted to consecration of the ministers. Promotional work of the church and publications and the introduction of the youth program was made. Brother Paulk gave us instructions which were gratefully accepted and sincerely appreciated. An examination on the Workers' Training Course No. 2 was given for the ministers and others who were prepared to take the examination.

The L.W.W.B. of the Lincoln Church, under the leadership of Sister Welch, is to be commended for the delicious and tasty dinner which they served for the ministers and laity, also for the supper following the afternoon service.

The afternoon service again brought into our hearts the full realization that the Lord was with us. As the ministers gave their testimonies, and expressed their love for God and His Church, tears actually flowed down their cheeks. Knowing the sacrifices some of these brethren are making, no one could doubt their sincerity.

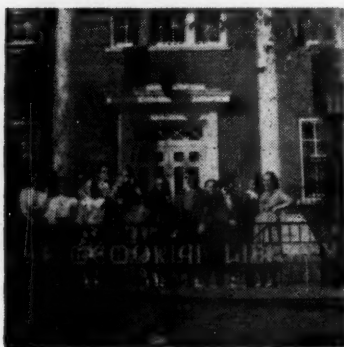
The pastor of the North Omaha Church, Brother W. J. Roberts, delivered the afternoon message, a message of Bible truths, given forth in love and anointed by the Holy Ghost, which brought forth from every heart a deep appreciation for message and messenger, and was climaxed with tears and praise unto the Lord. The pastor of the East Omaha Church, Brother J. R. Roper, was in charge of the devotions for the evening service. From the beginning the Holy Ghost once again was being poured out upon hungry and receptive hearts and souls. While the whole atmosphere filled the house of the Lord, the saints were weeping and praising the Lord.

Brother Paulk was introduced and after a few words of greeting, began what I can truthfully say was the greatest sermon I have ever heard him preach. There were over 50 different Scripture

quotations during the message; he was forced to pause at intervals while the saints praised the Lord and it was climaxed with shouting, dancing, weeping, and praising the Lord.

Although we are few in number here on the snow-covered, wind-swept plains of the great Midwest, God did not forget His people. We do not want you to forget us either. Please breathe a prayer, join us in fasting that God will continue to give forth with the outpouring of the Holy Ghost. —James R. Ray

*Overseer of Nebraska*



### Young People Make Tour of Headquarters

KINGSPORT, Tenn.—A group of young people from the Church of God in Kingsport, Tennessee, recently made a tour of the Church of God headquarters, Lee College, and Sevierville Orphanage. They financed this trip with a bake sale which proved very successful. The group left home early on Saturday morning and spent a full day in Cleveland. They had lunch in the college dining hall. They left in the afternoon to visit the orphanage. To the young people of other churches who have not had the privilege of visiting these places, we wish to let you know that you are missing a great blessing. We are very grateful to our wonderful pastor, Brother Earl Gilbert and his wife who shared the trip with us. Our thanks also go to Mrs. Charles Myers and Mrs. E. H. Hall, who went along as chaperons.

—Juanita Johnson,  
*Class Secretary*

### Reverberations From Arkansas State Prayer Conference

"Hearken unto the voice of my cry, my King, and my God: for unto thee will I pray. But as for me, I will come into thy house in the multitude of thy mercy: and in thy fear will I worship toward thy holy temple," Psalm 5:2, 7.

The evening of January 21, 1957, found the Marked Tree, Arkansas, Church all in readiness for an outstanding prayer conference. The Reverend R. E. Pedigo, the host pastor, along with his people, worked hard in completely remodeling and redecorating their church in time for this state meeting. When one entered the sanctuary, it seemed to say, "Welcome."

The church was packed to capacity. The ministry of the state, along with the laity, had come to give themselves to prayer and the hearing of the Word. It seemed that all were in one mind and one accord; and God was present to bless every effort put forth. Wonderful fellowship prevailed. The conference was under the direction of Rev. Brady Dennis, Overseer of Arkansas. The songs, the prayers and the speeches all seemed to be directed by God's Spirit.

Among the visitors at the first service were: the Reverend Houston R. Morehead, General Overseer of the Church of God; Mayor Kahn Bray of Marked Tree, Arkansas; the Rev. V. D. Combs, Overseer of Louisiana; and a group of ministers from Louisiana. Mayor Bray, who has been very helpful to the Church of God at Marked Tree, highlighted his speech by emphasizing the fact that if we are to keep America strong, we must keep America good.

Brother Morehead delivered a

most outstanding message, which vividly depicted the wonderful mercy that God has extended toward mankind. Needless to say, our hearts were melted in gratitude to God for His merciful kindness toward us.

Even though the weather was inclement, it did not hinder the ministers and laymen from attending the day services of the Prayer Conference. There was a wonderful attendance at each service.

In the morning service of January 22, the state overseer pictured vividly the land that we need to possess for God and His Church in Arkansas. Hearts were stirred and awakened to the need of going into new fields with the message of the Church of God.

Brother V. D. Combs, Overseer of Louisiana, delivered a message on "It's Later Than You Think." Brother Morehead then gave some of his experiences on his recent trip to Europe, which made the hearers realize the responsibility of promoting missions.

The afternoon congregation was blessed with a dual message, which consisted of a sermon on "The Minister and His Prayer Life" by the Reverend D. D. Froud; and a sermon on "The Minister and His Study Life" by the Reverend T. K. Shoemaker.

The closing service was filled with prayer and praise. Heaven seemed to come down to kiss the earth, as the Reverend Fred Jernigan, pastor, Memphis, Tennessee, began to bring a message on "The Second Coming of the Lord." The sermon went undelivered as the Holy Spirit began to whisper to hearts and souls of the fine congregation. Many were blessed in an altar of prayer, and some received the baptism of the Holy Ghost. —Florence Dennis, Reporter

Will your pastor win the round-trip plane fare to Central America in the big Y.P.E. contest? March 25-April 21.

Will your Y.P.E. president win the round-trip plane fare to British West Indies in the big Y.P.E. contest? March 25-April 21.





# healing

## God Wrought a Miracle in My Family

MEADVILLE, Miss.—In 1945 God wrought a miracle in my family. I was pastoring a church near Harris, Kentucky, but my time had about expired; I had not accepted another church to pastor at the time, but had bought out a store and had run it for about three months. It had been snowing and had frozen over. My oldest child, a girl, about three years old at the time, had contacted a cold and was sick about three days; however, we did not think too much about it. One evening following this I had just come from the store which I had then sold. My wife was in the kitchen cooking, and a neighbor, who was an unbeliever and did not believe in holiness, had come in to visit. My daughter came in, lay back on the bed, and began to have convulsions. I called my wife and Brother Hamilton and his wife to come. In just a few minutes our darling child died. My wife began to scream and say, "My darling is gone." Brother Hamilton took the child from my wife and I fell down and began to pour out my heart to God, although there was no breath in the child's body and she was dead. I remember a good bit of that prayer very well. You can imagine the agony that I was in, but I said, "Lord, please heal this child and I will testify and give you the glory for it. I will preach more, Lord, if you will heal her." I prayed for the Lord's will to be done. I do not know how long I prayed, and I do not know how long the child was dead, but it could have been thirty minutes or more. As I kept praying, Brother Hamilton said, "Pray on, folk, there is still

breath in its body." I do not know when God let its breath come back, but I do know God surely performed a miracle that night. The neighbor, with tears running down her cheeks, said that night, "I'll not leave you good people tonight, for I've always wanted to see a miracle and I've seen one tonight." The people who were present that night can affirm that these things are true. Brother Oleon Hamilton and his wife are formerly of Vanceburg, Kentucky.

—Rev. Vernon E. Rowe

## "In a New World" After Nervous Condition Is Healed

CLEVELAND, S. C.—It is with great joy in my soul that I send this testimony for the *Evangel*. I feel I owe it to the great Church of God for liberating my soul that was captivated on every hand. When the Church of God first came to our community, I was so nervous that I could not even stay in the doctor's office long enough to take a shot for my nerves. I could not go anywhere in any peace and could not stay by myself for one minute. God, through His servant, our pastor of the tabernacle at that time, Brother J. B. Turner, delivered me by sanctifying my soul and taking the tobacco habit from me instantly. He completely healed me of my nervous condition to the extent that I feel as if I am in a new world. I can stay all day alone now and can go anywhere in a crowd. I have not been to the doctor since and have not

needed to go. When I get sick, I ask the church to pray for me and Jesus delivers. I am truly thankful that I did not close my eyes against the light when it began to shine on my pathway. I join with the great Church of God in looking for Jesus to come because I want to be ready to go. I cannot express in these few words the things Jesus has done for me. May the Lord's richest blessings rest and abide on the great Church of God. It is wonderful to feel the prayers and the fellowship that abides in the Church. None are strangers, but all are gathered under His wing, as a hen doth her brood, and we are one. Nothing but the blood of Jesus that was shed on Calvary could bring us all to one level in the sight of a holy God. —Mrs. Lois Ellenburg

— — —

## Epileptic Healed Six Years Ago Still Praises God

JOPLIN, Mo.—I want to praise the Lord for healing my husband. About six years ago Brother and Sister Guy were pastoring the Church of God here in Joplin, and Brother Dan Coker came for a revival. While he was staying in our home, my husband told him of his affliction which was epilepsy. He had had this affliction since he was a small child. He had been to many doctors and to many healing campaigns, but he seemed to grow worse. He finally got some medicine that stopped the attacks, as long as he would take it. He was unable to hold a steady job, but worked on odd jobs. Brother Coker prayed for him and from that night to the present time, he has not had an attack and has not taken any medicine. He has been working at a garment factory here for over six years. He has gained over thirty pounds since the Lord healed him. This healing was done in our little church on a night when there was only a small crowd. You do not have to go to some big healing campaign for God to heal you, even though they are good and many are healed in them.

—Mrs. Lawrence Smith

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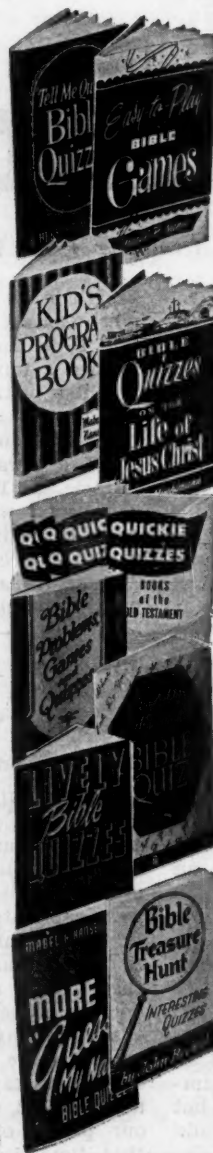
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